

Hunter's Clarion

Patrons Found Eating Books

by Serena M. Herter

Western Carolina University's Librarian Bil Stahl announced today that on April 1, 2003, Hunter Library staff discovered library patrons consuming large quantities of books, tea, and coffee near the library's café, Java City. Bil Stahl made the announcement that sometime between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. on April 1, librarians found evidence of bibliophilic cannibalism on the main floor of the library.

Stahl said that the library's records indicated that Professor Matt Liddle's art class, university faculty, staff, and a local bakery had displayed edible creations in honor of the International Edible Book Festival, a yearly event held throughout the world where edible books are displayed, photographed, and consumed. All photographs are then sent to Umbrella Editions in Santa

Monica, CA, where a potential nonedible book is being compiled, documenting the annual events held around the world. Participating countries in past years have included Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Morocco, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United States of America.

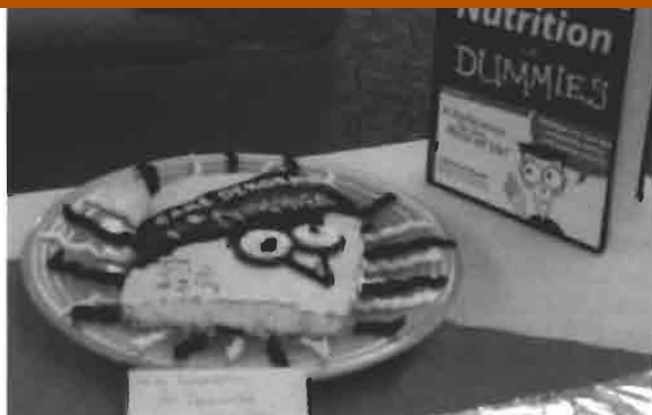


Hunter Library's lobby was the scene of unfor-

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fruits, Rice Krispies, seaweed, tortillas, Fruit Rollups, alphabet noodles, wonton wrappers, shortbread, Spam, French loaf, cream cheese, black sunflower seeds, chewing gum, Jell-o, and violets were photographed, then eaten by their chefs and library guests.

The Edible Book High/Low Tea was initiated by Judith A. Hoffberg in 1999, and in 2000 artist Beatrice Coron converted the single event into an international annual sensation covered on radio and TV, holding it on April 1 in honor of the birthday of French gastronome Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755-1826), author of the classic book, *Physiology of Taste*.

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Electronic Journals at Hunter Library: Issues and Challenges

by Nancy Newsome, *Serials Librarian*

In the past decade the collection of journal titles accessible at Hunter Library has grown dramatically. Today, in addition to 1,500 print subscriptions, WCU students, faculty and staff can access approximately 25,000 titles through electronic means. While we have cut the number of paper subscriptions to keep subscription costs in check, we have also been able to more than offset the loss with additions in the electronic collection.

Some libraries have opted to aggressively shift their collections to an all-electronic format, canceling print whenever possible. Drexel University was among the first to move to an all-electronic collection in 1998, canceling all but a few hundred core print subscriptions. At Hunter Library, we have taken a rather conservative approach to this trend, in recognition of its complexity and its risks. But, from time to time we re-evaluate our position by weighing new variables and the advantages and disadvantages of this stance. The trend toward an all-electronic collection poses a number of interesting challenges and opportunities.

"Yes, let's do it!"

There are many compelling reasons for acquiring more electronic journals, user expectations being one of the most immediate. Many of our users already think of electronic resources first and expect that what they need is available in that format. Electronic journals offer enhanced searching capabilities—one of the reasons users prefer electronic resources to print. Although there are some exceptions, the old print indexes, wonderful as they are, just are not as good at keyword searching.

Convenience is another reason to go electronic. Theoretically, the materials are available 24 hours a day, from the user's personal desktop. It is readily accessible and never off the shelf. For distance learners, this is especially

useful, if not critical.

There is a potential cost savings as well. For many journal titles, the online only option has a discounted subscription rate of 10%-20% off the print price. Couple this with the savings in binding and other processing costs, as well as saving valuable library shelf space, and the actual cost savings can be substantial.

"Well maybe, but..."

Despite the potential advantages listed above, an electronic collection also entails some long-term risks. Archiving electronic records is a significant concern since the library does not own the electronic records to be archived. Libraries have historically been responsible for maintaining journal back runs, but in the electronic world libraries don't "own" the electronic records to be archived. Rather, the archival tasks would fall to the publishers or the database providers, but their reliability in this task remains unproven. This is a new responsibility for them, and most are either not doing it or doing it poorly. Print or microform are currently the only proven methods of long-term archiving, although there is hope for electronic archiving with projects such as JSTOR and Project Muse.

Another long-term consequence is a possible eventual homogenization of the journal collection if we rely primarily on the "aggregator" databases such as EBSCOHost or Info Trac. These databases are a collection of nonrelated titles in a wide variety of subjects put together according to publisher participation, and change frequently as publishers withdraw and add titles, or move from one database vendor to another. All libraries that subscribe to these databases have the same list of titles. The ability to choose, "buffet" style, only the titles that are relevant for the programs and needs of a particular institution would allow for greater flexibility in developing a unique, customized periodical collection. Unfortunately, at the present, they are an all-or-nothing package with no option for putting together a collection that will suit a given library's particular needs.

This brings us to another concern—the dependence on providers who have the ability to change content as they see fit. Whole titles can be removed, or perhaps just certain articles, or certain years may disappear after a period of time (and therefore *permanently* off the shelf). Many

From the University Librarian

by Bil Stahl

As part of a reading assignment (yes, I still have those long after I finished my formal education) for one of the Chancellor's planning retreats, I read M. Gladwell's *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make A Big Difference*. It is a fascinating book that I highly recommend to anyone. It is an easy read, but it causes one to rethink their assumptions about many cause and effect relationships. I think Gladwell's analysis of why the stop smoking campaign will never be successful is worth the price of the book alone – but that's another discussion.

I was especially taken with *The Tipping Point* because it articulated and named the strategy that we have been intuitively following at Hunter Library. In the best of all worlds, we would undertake many BIG projects to improve Hunter Library. However, given the number of pressing priorities on campus and the critical budget situation in NC, getting funding to undertake such large-scale projects within the next two to three years is unrealistic. Still, we continue to plan the large projects so we will be ready when new money surfaces, but that does not help the library users who are here now.

Over the past three years we have been following a continuous improvement strategy. The creation of the Library Café was, of course, a big attention-getter. It said to the community – “look at the Library” – some interesting things are happening there. And in fact, we have been successfully creating a stream of interesting things. Students and faculty are now waiting to see what we do next. The Library staff has become energized and very attuned to identifying new opportunities. The “interesting things” have included a host of creative exhibits, the Leisure Reading Collection that the Friends of Hunter Library were so important in getting established, the creation of more inviting seating areas, the Edible Book Contest that was suggested by the Art Department, and the Library Olympics that were part of our National Library Week celebration, to name a few. Not all of these “interesting things” are just for fun. We also implemented others such as the Document Delivery Service to provide students and faculty with articles from approx. 25,000 journals and promoted individual research consultations with Reference Librarians to give personalized assistance to students

working on research projects.

In essence we have been executing the basic strategy of any good retailer. You need to get people into the store first before you can sell them your products. Our “product” is to enhance the students' and faculty's ability to learn through the use of the Library's services and collections. However, we have to get them into the Library first. Based on the undergraduate survey we conducted this spring, we seem to be succeeding; 92% of the undergraduate students surveyed have reported that they came to the Library during the academic year.

We have not yet achieved a true Tipping Point where we have an epidemic-scale invasion of the Library by students and faculty, but we seem to have the scale tipped in the right direction. We do have the challenge of continually having to come up with new ways to capture our users' attention and to refine our services, while trying to manage all of the changes occurring with our vendors, the Internet, the US Government Printing Office, copyright laws, the PATRIOT Act, etc. When we will achieve our Tipping Point is anyone's guess. It is unlikely that we will ever achieve such a crushing success that the see-saw could never swing in the opposite direction. We must

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Nantahala Power & Light Company: A Commemoration of Its History

by Priscilla Proctor

On February 17, Hunter Library and the Mountain Heritage Center held a reception in Special Collections in honor of current and former employees of Duke Energy Corporation. Chancellor Bardo provided the opening remarks for the celebration and emphasized the gratitude of the university for the donation and the significance of the donation. Mr. Fred Alexander and others at Nantahala/Duke did a terrific job in preserving all the materials and artifacts that the collection encompasses.

The celebration featured an assortment of photographs, newsletters, memorabilia, and artifacts arranged in the display cases also donated by Duke Energy. The materials docu-

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Hunter Library Celebrates Another "Ho-Hum" National LibraryWeek, April 6-13, 2003

by Serena Herter

Not! Whoever said that surely wasn't at Hunter during this year's National Library Week celebration. Hunter Library was the place to be for excitement in 2003.

If you *were* at Hunter during National Library Week this year, you had a chance to order your favorite CD, DVD, book, or video to add to the Library's collection in the "Order Your Favorite" event held throughout the week. A total of 79 items were ordered, 33 of which were DVD's. Western students ordered most of the items, and all requests will either improve the Library collections and/or the student's program.

If you came to Globe Trotting Day events, you learned about the Library's collection of language tapes, maps, movies, books, and Library home page links to information on foreign travel destinations. You also heard students, faculty, and staff members sharing their experiences traveling, teaching, and studying abroad.

Midway through the week, if you were in the Library, you helped announcer Systems Librarian Jill Ellern cheer teams of WCU students competing against each other in the Library Olympics, a variable format reference hunt to win a donation to their favorite charity. Delta Zeta won the event, with the Psychology Club coming in second, and Last Minute Productions finishing a close third. Everyone in the Library enjoyed cake

and refreshments served by Jill at the close of the Library Olympics.

Throughout National Library Week all Library display cases featured the variety of resource formats that Hunter currently offers, such as books, sound recordings, flash cards, electronic resources, manuscripts, films, 3D materials, microfiche, just to name a few. Everyone who came to the celebration agreed that the special events gave Hunter Library a week long "buzz" of excitement. While patrons enjoyed getting the many pins, buttons and pens given away at the service areas in the Library, the most popular gifts were the surprise Java City gift certificates. The favorite button given away this year was the "Hunter Library is almost better than chocolate" button.

University Librarian Bill Stahl invites you to attend next year's National Library Week celebration and extends his sincere thanks to the 2003 National Library Week Committee members, Clarissa Fisher, Bob Strauss, Robin Hitch, Dora Wike, and Sharon McLaurin, for their hard work, effort and time that went in to making this year's celebration such a success. Thanks are also extended to Serena Herter for her help with computer graphics for all events.

ACRL Awards Scholarship

by Heidi Buchanan

Because of its commitment to the future of the profession, the Association of College and Research Libraries offers a scholarship for its National Conference to a select number of new librarians in the field. This year, as a new librarian and first time conference attendee, I applied for and received the scholarship. The scholarship paid for my conference registration and most other expenses for the conference, held in Charlotte, NC. The conference gave me the opportunity to learn how other libraries are dealing with issues such as Information Literacy and marketing through various workshops, presentations, and poster sessions. I also had the opportunity to meet and talk to other scholarship recipients at the All Conference Luncheon. The presenter at the luncheon was William Ferris, former chairman of the National Endowment for the humanities and the author of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. The conference was enjoyable and productive, and I am ready to apply many of the things I learned to my work at Hunter Library!



Ask a Reference Librarian

Dear Reference Librarian,

Can men really get pregnant? I saw a web site called malepregnancy.com that showed a man who looked very pregnant. The web site was from a hospital and looked reliable.

Curious in Cullowhee

Dear Curious,

You are right, the first hit in a Google search for male pregnancy is, malepregnancy.com, where a man, Mr. Lee Mingwei, is featured as the first male pregnancy ([POP The First Human Male Pregnancy](#)). There is a nice picture of the proud papa in his briefs (no men's section at the maternity store?) and his protruding stomach. There are also links to the "hospital" that will be delivering the baby, and "live ultrasound." Some things are strange though, including the link to his "cover story" in *Time* magazine that doesn't bring you to any articles. Skeptical, I went to **Info Trac OneFile**, one of Hunter Library's paid databases that finds articles from newspapers, magazines, and journals. I searched for "male pregnancy" in the keyword search box. I soon came across a December 4, 2000, article from the *Alberta Report* that confirmed my suspicions; the web page was a hoax. Mr. Lee Mingwei is an artist, but he is not actually pregnant ("None in the Oven"). Another confirmation of the hoax is the article's publication date – 2000. When looking at malepregnancy.com in 2003, Mr. Mingwei is still pregnant! He seems to have been 9 months pregnant for at least three years. Hmmm...

So, can men really get pregnant? I did some further reading of articles I found in *Info Trac OneFile*, *Academic Search Elite*, and *LexisNexis*. I simply typed *male pregnancy* into each search screen. I like to search several of the library's databases to make sure I have a wide range of information. Each database searches a different set of magazines and journals. *LexisNexis* covers newspapers from around the world. I noticed that no one was discussing the possibility of men actually *becoming* pregnant as women naturally do, but rather the possibility that a man could *carry* a fetus after fertilization. This is something, I found, that male seahorses do (Wilson). Though I found few scholarly publications on the subject, there were several articles in newspapers about the possibility of male pregnancy.

How would men get pregnant? The process would be similar to *in vitro* fertilization in women. According to Dick Teresi, an award-winning science writer for the *New York Times*, the "developing embryo would be inserted through a small incision in the abdominal cavity" (Teresi). Hormones would be injected into the male's body, and then the baby would be delivered by a Caesarean section (so get rid of all those gruesome mental images of natural childbirth)(Teresi). Unfortunately, there are serious dangers to this kind of pregnancy. An abdominal pregnancy would be like an ectopic (out of place) pregnancy in a woman (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*). According to [The Merck Manual of Medical Information](#) (found in the Reference section of Hunter Library), an ectopic pregnancy is "life threatening" (Berkow 1153). Teresi adds that "advanced abdominal pregnancy kills 10 percent of women who experience it and 70 percent of their babies" (Teresi). Other risks for a man would include excessive "bleeding from the implanted placenta... (and) the hormone treatment could lead the man to grow breasts" (Farrar).

So the answer to your question, Curious, is, no. Not yet anyway. Though male pregnancy is theoretically possible, it seems that no one has proven it can be done. Artists like Lee Mingwei and Arnold Schwarzenegger don't count! People are still talking about it, however. Keep your eye out for studies by fertility specialists like Sir Robert Winston in London. Given the risks, I doubt there will be many volunteers.

Sincerely,

Heidi Buchanon, Reference Librarian

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Anita Oser Retires after Thirty Years of Service

by Serena Herter

Anita Oser, a member of the Hunter Library faculty since 1973, will be entering Phased Retirement July 1, 2003. Anita came to Hunter Library from the University of Miami's Richter Library, where she held the positions of cataloguer and then assistant circulation librarian. During her thirty-year tenure at Hunter Library, Anita spent twelve years as a reference librarian, then moved on to Documents and Maps, followed by Special Collections and Maps, and finally assumed responsibilities as Map Librarian.

Because of her background in geography, it was not long after her arrival at Hunter that Anita took on the responsibility of maintaining the library's map collection. Back in 1973, the map collection consisted of approximately 3,000 maps stored in several piles on the floor and in two map cases, located on the small mezzanine above what is now a part of the Coulter Faculty Center on the first floor of the library. In 1982 Chancellor Robinson added approximately 45,000 topographic maps from the Geosciences Department to the library's collection. From these humble beginnings, with Anita's tireless work, Hunter's Map Room has grown to be one of the largest in North Carolina. The collection currently includes over 120,000 sheet maps, about 750 atlases, 500 reference books pertaining to mapping and GIS, and a travel collection of tourist maps, brochures, and guidebooks.

In addition to her various responsibilities in the library, for the past fifteen years Anita has also taught Map Interpretation, Cartography, and GIS classes for the Geosciences and NRM Department at Western, and completed her Ph.D. in 1994. Anita has been very active in university affairs, serving on the Faculty Senate, the Council on Instruction and Curriculum, the University Tenure and Promotion Advisory Committee, Evaluating Teaching Task Force (Chair), and Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate. Her committee memberships at Hunter Library include the University Librarian Advisory Committee, numerous search committees, and the Library Tenure, Promotion, and Reappointment Advisory Committee. Professionally, Anita has been active in the Geography and Map Division of Special Libraries Association. She has served as Division secretary and treasurer, chair-elect, chair, and program planner. Currently, she is also the Division's representative to IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations). She has served as editor of the "New Books & Atlases" column of base line, the newsletter of the Map

& Geography Roundtable (MAGERT) of the American Library Association. Anita has found time to do some publishing, including the slide/tape show, "An Introduction to Map Libraries" and an article, "The Literature of Map Librarianship: 1853-1991."

Once on Phased Retirement, Anita will continue to work in Hunter Library for twenty hours a week. The rest of her time will be devoted to teaching some courses, staying professionally active, traveling, and doing "fun" things. Hunter Library salutes Anita and congratulates her for the thirty-year commitment she made to Hunter Library and Western's students, faculty and staff.



NP&L: A Commemoration of Its History

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ment the work performed by Nantahala Power's employees, the people who worked to build and maintain the hydro-electric projects, the efforts of the men and women to maintain service during severe weather conditions, and the company's contributions to the community over its 70-year history. We talked with several of the former employees and it was rather entertaining to listen to some of the "true" stories they had to tell from years ago. Some of these events have entered into the very folklore of our region, such as the "Blizzard of '93." The collection is a testament to the people who worked for Nantahala Power & Light and to the continuing efforts of Duke Power and was one of the motivating reasons for the reception.

The collection already has made possible the development of an online exhibit on Nantahala Power & Light history. Dr. Richard D. Starnes of WCU's History Department guided the students in his "Local History" class in creating the online exhibit. Mountain Heritage Center is hosting the site as one of its first online exhibits.

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publishers "embargo" their titles, meaning that the most recent issues cannot be made available electronically for a period of time, usually 6 months to a year. Providers can also change licensing terms, for example no longer allowing access to a certain group of users. In the print world, the library has more control over what happens to an issue of a journal once it arrives in the building.

Although there is a cost savings in reducing or eliminating print subscriptions, there are processing costs associated with electronic journals that need to be considered. It requires more time of higher-level staff to sort through and negotiate license agreements, register for access, provide links in the library's catalog and/or web page, and maintain those links. More is also required of public service staff. Users are often overwhelmed with the many options and the complexity of learning many different search engines. There are some products available now that may help with this, called link servers, but they are new, still being developed, and expensive. It seems that the potential cost savings is in fact a shift in costs.

Other concerns include possible accreditation issues should the library drop print subscriptions. The loss of ability to browse and find useful information serendipitously is also an important consideration with electronic journals.

The reality is...

At the moment the Library is taking a somewhat conservative approach, adding electronic journals in selective areas where it makes sense to do so and canceling only when something comparable and hopefully better can be added. We have completed our first year of subsidized document delivery that replaced some of the higher priced, low use print subscriptions. Our primary concern is to provide the best sources in whatever format. More discussion of electronic versus print needs to take place, and we will be engaging the campus in that discussion beginning this fall semester.



From the University Librarian

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continually work to maintain our good position by refining and adjusting our focus on those things that will make our library great.

However, pursuing this strategy has clarified for us what a library is. A library is not a singular thing. It is a constellation of many things, both large and small. To be truly successful the Library must pay attention to each one of them. While waiting to tackle the large ones, we will continue to find and fine-tune the smaller ones.

Friends of the Library Trip to Atlanta

by James Addison,
Professor of English

On the first weekend in March 2003, thirty intrepid souls made the trek down through the rolling hills of Habersham and Hall, to Atlanta for the Friends of Hunter Library Weekend. Staying conveniently at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel in Midtown, the group, which included WCU administrators, librarians, faculty, and writer Sue Ellen Bridgers and Judge Lacy Thornburg, as well as Fairview Principal Sue Nations, were admitted to a special exhibit at the High Museum of Art on the afternoon of March 1. Called *Paris in the Age of Impressionism*, the exhibit marked the first time many of the works, on loan from the Musee d'Orsay, for example, had been seen outside of Paris. A special treat was an evolving large-scale model of the Eiffel Tower, showing the stages of its construction. Fascinating, too, were the many paintings, sculptures, and decorative items that commemorated Paris' ascendancy as a cultural and artistic center.

Later that day, after finishing the special exhibition, many of the group stayed to enjoy the regular High Museum collections, noting especially the African treasures exhibit and some recently purchased American sculpture. Then, after a brief respite, the intrepid trekkers made their own reservations for dinner from among the many wonderful possibilities in Midtown Atlanta. Quite a few decided to eat at the Woodruff Arts Center restaurant called *Fanfare*, which was an excellent value and of good quality. Not only was the food very good, but the location was perfect—immediately adjacent to the Concert Hall of the Woodruff. Just before 8 p.m., the group found their seats in the beautifully designed Concert Hall where the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alan Gilbert, with guest pianist Stephen Hough, performed Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Respighi, and Ravel. A highlight was *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini* by Rachmaninov, performed in powerful, virtuoso style by Stephen Hough, who received a standing ovation.

At the close of the concert, the group made their way back to the hotel or off to late-night entertainments, as their energies dictated. The next morning, after a restful night in wonderful rooms, it was down to a sumptuous Grill, and, then, all too soon, the trek back up through the hills, to the mountains—and home. All in all, it was a wonderful Friends of Hunter Library Weekend—an excursion everyone in the group hopes will be repeated in semesters and years to come!

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~All research databases cited above are available through Hunter Library's web page
<http://www.wcu.edu/library>

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